

REMARKS

The Office Action dated October 1, 2007, has been thoroughly reviewed and Applicants now respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-20 are pending in the subject application, with claims 1, 18 and 19 being independent. Claim 20 has been added to afford Applicants a scope of claims to better commiserate to the disclosure. Claims 1, 18 and 19 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Each of the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action have been addressed below.

35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection - Cohen

Claims 1-10 and 18-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 7,035,926 (Cohen). For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that claims 1-10 and 18-19 are patentable over the cited prior art.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a method for enabling identification of network users having similar interests, and facilitating communication between them. The method includes identifying a web page that a user is viewing, determining the presence of other users at or near the web page that the user is viewing, calculating a virtual distance between the web page that the user is viewing and web pages viewed by the other users, displaying for the user a listing of the other users determined to be within a predetermined virtual distance from the web page that the user is viewing, and enabling the user to communicate with one or more users selected from the displayed listing of other users. System claim 18 recites the similar patentable features.

One of recited salient features of claims 1 and 18 is the ability to determine a virtual distance that other users are from a webpage that the user is on. Such other users may be on any other webpage, not just a specific group of webpages. The user is then informed of the location (webpages, objects, etc.) of other users who are within a predetermined virtual distance (*see, e.g., specification, page 10, paragraph [036] through page 11*).

With respect to claims 1-10 and claim 18, Applicants respectfully submit that Cohen does not appear to disclose, teach or suggest, or make obvious at least *calculating a virtual distance between the web page that the user is viewing and web pages viewed by the other users*, as recited in independent claims 1 and 18. As understood by Applicants, Cohen discloses a method of monitoring activity on a computer network which includes providing a map of a known group of resources (“predefined nodes”) and tracking access of computer users of the resources in the group. Identification of one or more users and respectively-accessed resources are registered with the map.

In the Office Action, the Examiner cited col. 1, ll. 42-44 as disclosing determining the presence of other users at or near the web page that the user is viewing. (Office action dated 10/01/2007, p. 2). Indeed, Col. 1, ll. 42-44 discuss “maintaining a list of the other users who are currently at the same virtual place [as the user].” (Cohen, col. 1, ll. 42-47; *see also*, col. 4, lines 37-43). This text, as well as other text from Cohen, however, does not even mention, much less disclose *calculating a virtual distance between the web page that the user is viewing and web pages viewed by the other users*, as explicitly recited in independent claims 1 and 18. Furthermore, it is respectfully asserted that the Cohen patent nowhere discloses displaying for the user a listing of the other users determined to be *within a predetermined virtual distance* from the web page that the user is viewing.

With respect to claim 19, Applicants submit that claim 19 is directed to a method for enabling identification of network users having similar interests, and facilitating communication between them. The method includes identifying a data object that a user is accessing, determining a listing of other users that are currently accessing or that have recently accessed the data object, displaying for the user the listing of the other users filtered based on an affinity between data associated with the user and data associated with the other users, and enabling the user to communicate with one or more users selected from the displayed listing of other users.

Applicants respectfully submit that Cohen does not disclose, teach or suggest, or make obvious in any way at least the feature of displaying for the user the listing of other users accessing a data object, where such a listing is *filtered based on an affinity between*

data associated with the user and data associated with the other users, as recited in independent claim 19. In the Office Action, the Examiner cited col. 1, ll. 42-47 as disclosing displaying for the user the listing of the other users determined to be currently accessing or that have recently accessed the data object. (Office action dated 10/01/2007, p. 5). Indeed, Col. 1, ll. 42-47 discuss “maintaining a list of the other users who are currently at the same virtual place [as the user].” (Cohen, col. 1, ll. 42-47) (emphasis added). This text, however, does not even mention, much less disclose displaying for the user the listing of the other users *filtered based on an affinity between data associated with the user and data associated with the other users*, as explicitly recited in independent claim 19.

35 U.S.C. § 102 rejection - Nachman

Claims 1, 11, 13-14 and 16-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by US Publication No. 2001/0027474 (Nachman). To that end, Applicants also respectfully assert that claims 1, 11, 13-14 and 16-17 are patentable in view of this cited prior art.

Nachman is understood by Applicants to be directed to a method for clientless real-time messaging between internet users. With respect to claim 1, Nachman does not appear to disclose, teach or suggest, or make obvious at least the step of *calculating a virtual distance between the web page that the user is viewing and web pages viewed by the other users*, as explicitly recited in independent claim 1. In the Office Action, the Examiner cited paragraphs 38 and 40 as disclosing determining the presence of other users at or near the web page that the user is viewing. (Office action dated 10/01/2007, p. 5). This portion of the specification discusses a server application that reads various details sent over an EP link, including client identification details, the URL of the web page currently viewed by said web or WAP browser and the browsing status. (See Nachman, paragraph 38). Paragraph 40 is understood to discuss a possibility “to receive a list of other users watching the same web page.” (Nachman, paragraph 40). This text,

however, does not discuss *calculating a virtual distance between the web page that the user is viewing and web pages viewed by the other users*, as explicitly recited in independent claim 1. Furthermore, it is respectfully asserted that Nachman nowhere discloses, teaches or suggests displaying for the user a listing of the other users determined to be *within a predetermined virtual distance* from the web page that the user is viewing.

35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection

Claims 12 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as reciting subject matter that would have been obvious over Nachman in view of other prior art. Since claims 12 and 15 both depend from claim 1, they incorporate the features recited in claim 1, and therefore, are both patentable for the reasons noted above. Accordingly, this §103 rejection is now considered moot.

CONCLUSION

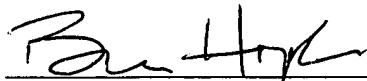
At least for the above-noted reasons, independent claims 1, 18 and 19 are patentable over the cited prior art. Since the remainder of the art of record fails to meet the deficiencies noted in Cohen, claims 1, 18 and 19 are also patentable over the prior art of record. In addition, since the remainder of the claims are dependent upon one or another of independent claims 1, 18 and 19, the dependent claims necessarily incorporate by reference all of the features of the base independent claims, and are therefore patentable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that all the outstanding rejections be withdrawn.

Based on the foregoing, this application is believed to be in allowable condition, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner still has further questions or concerns after reviewing Applicants' Response, Applicants suggest that the

Examiner telephone Applicants' representatives at the below listed phone number to help expedite the prosecution of this application.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account 50-0311, Reference No. 27683-011. The Director is further authorized to charge any required fee(s) under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.19, 1.20, and 1.21 to the abovementioned Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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